THE PLOUGH BOY.

AND JOURNAL OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

BY SOLOMON SOUTHWICK.

"He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."—BUT—"He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread."—*Eccle. iastes.*

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE PLOUGH BOY.

DEAR SIR—I send for your perusal, the Address of the Hon. Mr. LYMAN, delivered before the Agricultural Society in Northampton, Massachusetts. It is truly gratifying to behold the interest which our best and most honourable men are taking in rural economy. As to this Address, I am sure you will admire it, and I hope you may gratify the public by republishing it in your paper. The "Plough Boy" has been distinguished for its tasteful selections, as well as for the ability with which it has been conducted, and its happy influence in diffusing useful information. This Address, while it exhibits to great advantage the elegant scholar and the practical politician, is full of motives to persuade the farmer to prosecute with vigour his patriotic duties.

YOUR CONSTANT READER.

Address,

Delivered before the Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Agricultural Society, at their Annual Meeting in Northampton, Oct. 25, 1820.

BY J. H. LYMAN.

Our age and country are distinguished by a spirit of enterprise, of improvement and of charity. Our canvass whitens the remotest and most unfrequented seas; and our flag has become familiar to the savages of Labrador and Terra de fuego, to the semi barbarians of the islands of the Pacific, to the polished European of every language, and to the effeminate inhabitants of Austral Asia.—Our capitalists have domesticated within our towns and villages, the most valuable manufactures of transatlantic kingdoms. The convenient, as well as the elegant and ornamental arts, find among us patrons and proficients. The votaries of science are multiplied, and her interests are liberally fostered. Hospitals and institutions for the relief of human suffering, spring up with magic influence; and the *religious* charities of the age, have encircled it with a *halo of glory*, unparalleled in the history of man, and enduring as his immortal spirit.

This spirit of enterprise, of improvement, and of charity, has at length extended its benign influence to the *agriculture* of our country. The value of this object, is not to be estimated by the order of time, in which it has become the subject of notice and patronage. *Agriculture* is the *parent art*—it forms of all others, the basis and support—without it civilization ceases, and population fails. The *agricultural* is the *natural* state of man. The *husbandman* and the *savage* are antipodes. The savage or hunting state, has been *usually* but *erroneously*, denominated the natural state of man. His history contradicts this position. He is naturally *gregarious*—his affections and his necessities render him *social*—his immortal destination requires him to pass his probation in a state of enlightened civilization.

God first planted a garden, and the first man he created, he placed in it to till and to cultivate it.

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed—And the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden, to dress it and to keep it.

Man is also *naturally social.*

And the Lord God said it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

The savage state, was the result of man's departure from his original purity, and of his rebellion against the law of his maker. Unmindful of his own happiness, and of the author of it, he disobeyed the injunctions of the Almighty, and after the lapse of ages degenerated to a state of barbarism.

The earth also was corrupt before God; and the earth was filled with violence—and God looked upon the earth and behold it was corrupt: for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth—and God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them: and behold I will destroy them with the earth.

Noah and his family, for their virtue and obedience, were exempted from the condemnation. They survived the general wreck, and commenced anew the settlement of the earth. The first record of his occupation is, *And Noah began to be an* husbandman, *and he planted a vineyard.*

The history of man ever since, evinces the correctness of our theory. As his affections have become perverted, his passions and powers prostituted, his mind darkened, and his habits vitiated, he has gradually sunk into the corruptions and miseries of barbarism. His moral and intellectual degradation have been invariably graduated by the degree and extent of his departure from the habits and order of social life. It is then the *corruption* of his nature, and not his nature as originally created and planted in the garden of God, which has made him a *savage*. His return to the enjoyments and blessings of social life, has been uniformly marked by a correspondent surrender of the vices and indolence of barbarism, and a zealous attention to the culture of the earth, and the improvement of his intellectual powers. It is then a singular and unaccountable fact, that not only heathen but *christian* writers, in giving the history of *man*, and of the progress of *human society*, commence with that *intermediate* stage of his *degradation*, which is alike opposed to the principles of his nature, and to his high original destiny. Let us then explode their defective hypothesis. Let us contemplate with complacency our original nature and destination, and while we guard against those vices which degrade the one and pervert the other, draw encouragement from pride, as well as interest and duty, to persevere in the improvement of our inheritance, and in the maintenance of those moral, religious and intellectual outposts, which secure the citadel of our true happiness.

Our Society having exclusive reference to *agriculture, rural and domestic economy*, and the *arts of social life*, of *necessity* recommends itself to the favour and patronage of all those among us, who duly and truly estimate their own interest, and sincerely love their *country* and their *homes*. This is the *third* anniversary since its establishment, and although in its infancy, there are few, of the many institutions devoted to the same great object, which bear an earlier date. The obvious importance of the *object*, and the very extended and growing interest which it has recently excited in all sections of our country, enlisting the powerful and simultaneous efforts of so many, naturally lead to the inquiry, *Why it should so long have lacked private zeal and public pat-*

ronage? A recurrence to facts will furnish the answer.

Our country was originally settled by those whose immediate object it was to find a refuge from ecclesiastical domination, and the unrestricted enjoyment of religious freedom—those upon whose pious and zealous minds the blandishments of wealth and power had comparatively no operation. Content with the enjoyment of the freedom they sought ; and educated at a period of the world when the *cultivation of the earth* was deemed to be unallied to science, requiring only physical strength and industry, and therefore the appropriate province of boors and peasants, the exigencies of their *situation* made them husbandmen—but the prejudices of their *education*, and the defects of the philosophy of the day, left them mere *labourers*. Their moral and physical energies were directed to the expulsion of the savages, and the establishment of a religious government and social order. Thus occupied and impressed, their views and their efforts were limited to the acquisition of the bare necessaries of life.

As their numbers increased and their settlements extended, these primary objects continued to claim their attention, till the arduous and bloody struggle of the *revolution*, merged all minor considerations, in the great object of rescuing themselves and their posterity from vassalage and civil death.

The impoverishments produced by a protracted and expensive war—the habits of military life—the turbulent and unsettled state in which the war left them—and the interesting circumstances growing out of new and extended relations to the other colonies—for many after years, required all that was left of wisdom, of virtue and of energy.

Hardly had the establishment of independence, of a free and equal government, and of social order, begun to be known and *felt*, and to prepare the way for the arts of *peace*, when that tremendous conflict commenced in Europe, which for near thirty years spread death and desolation over her fields.

Our remoteness from the scene, co-operating with the neutral policy of Washington, rendered us *secure*, though not *uninterested* spectators.—The little respect previously attached to husbandry, had not been *increased* by the tastes and habits formed during the revolutionary war. It was still considered a subordinate occupation—and a natural disrelish for bodily labour, combining with the temptations presented by our political institutions at home, and our relations abroad with belligerent Europe, gave to the enterprize of our country a two-fold direction—to the *learned professions* and to *commerce*. The allurements of wealth most powerfully influenced our merchants and navigators, and their enterprize was rewarded beyond even expectatation—and those who were emulous of professional fame and political distinction, found a broad and even road open to the race. The course has been crowded with competitors, and experience has taught the lesson, that *all* cannot be *winners*—that as *victory* implies *defeat*, so *distinction* implies *humilation*. Thus ambition becomes stripped of some of its enticement—self-examination succeeds to blind conceit—and all begin to learn the importance of adapting *pursuits to capacities*, and of creating that *division* of labor which is inherent in the constitution of every well regulated society.

The storm of war has subsided in Europe, and its mail-clad population doffed their armor, and reassumed the habiliments and occupations of peace. Cause and effect cease together. The circumstances which gave such a wonderful stimulous to our commercial enterprize having ceased to exist, our *commerce* has subsided into its natural channel. Diligence, and caution, and economy, still ensure it a fair and legitimate reward ; and although its age of miracles has gone by, when fortunes were the work of a day, its importance and true value still remain—it is indigenous in a free soil, and will continue to flourish—it will continue to enrich, to polish and to enlighten society. The inevitable consequence of the experience of past years, and of the present peace of the world, in their operation upon us, is a restriction of our cupidity and ambition, a reduction to the sober realities of life, and a conviction that the sentence passed on Adam, retains its operation : *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.*

To such causes we may attribute the lateness of the hour, at which the interests of agriculture have begun to receive due consideration and support. It is true that a few enlightened and patriotic men, not content with skimming the surface of things, have long valued and cherished this grand object. Amidst the difficulties and embarrassements attending the establishment of the government of the union—and the care, anxiety and labour incident to its early regulation, Washington found leisure to hold an interesting and voluminous correspondence upon this subject with the first agriculturist of the age. His letters to Sir John Sinclair, and his message to Congress, recommending the establishment of a National Board of Agriculture, evince not only the purity of his patriotism and the soundness of his judgment, but a wonderful *prescience*, which enabled him to foresee the events and necessities of after years. The efforts of Washington failed, while those of Sir John Sinclair were successful in Great Britain. By his unceasing exertions, the British Board of Agriculture was ultimately established. Its establishment forms an epoch in the history of human improvement, and its effects at home and abroad are already extensively felt and duly appreciated. It is to be hoped that the recommendation of Washington, supported by the successful experiment of Great Britain, will not be lost upon the government of our nation. In other parts of Europe, there sprung up at the same time, societies and institutions, devoted to the same object ; and in this seed time of good things, a few scattered grains fell upon our own country. The Massachusetts Society for the promotion of Agriculture, a similar society in Pennsylvania, and a *few* others, were early organized—but *we* witnessed little of their effects, and there still continued an extreme apathy among us, until our brethren in Berkshire, few in number, weak in funds, and apparently feeble in means, by their spirited and well adapted measures, became the honourable and proximate cause of the interest which is now felt, and of the efforts which are now making, throughout the union. To that society we are unquestionably deeply indebted, and let the obligation be forever remembered and acknowledged. A society is now organized in every convenient section of our commonwealth, and the operations of all are countenanced and supported by the liberal endowment of the government.

Other causes have also contributed to prepare the way, for the present improved state of public sentiment. Until the present age, most of the branches of physical science were very imperfectly understood. The idea that Agriculture could ever become a subject of interesting investigation to the Philosopher, not many years since, was considered the dream of credulity. He dropt an occasional remark upon its happy adaptedness to moral purity and personal felicity, and the mechanic powers lent it a few of their lighter aids. But modern discoveries and improvements in Geology, have created a new era in human knowledge. The assiduities of the chemist, the botanist and the mineralogist, have stripped the veil of mystery from the arcana of nature, and have substituted for scepticism, the certainties of science, and for pernicious prejudice, the advantages of experimental philosophy.

The intelligent husbandman no longer considers himself as plodding in an humble sphere—as devoted to an occupation useful indeed as supplying the physical wants of man, but disconnected with the exercise of his intellectual powers.—His false shame and indifference to labour, fly before the conviction, that he ranks in society with all that is useful and dignified. He has the proud consciousness of being engaged in an honourable calling—a calling vitally important to social life—the base which supports "the Corinthian column of polished society." He occupies a field affording ample scope and constant occasion for intellectual exercise. He has the consolation of *feeling*, that cheerfulness and health, respectability and success, are the attendants of his labours. He exults in recounting the worthies of all ages, who, superior to vulgar prejudice, have accounted it their honour and their happiness, to be enrolled among the cultivators of the soil. By such he finds his art to have been honoured from the dark times of fable and mythology, to the present moment of meridian light.

The Egyptians deified Osiris for inventing agriculture—and the sacred bulls, Apis and Mneves received divine honors for services supposed to have been rendered the art. The Phœnicians and the Greeks, rewarded with an apotheosis, and swelled their mythology with the names of Dagon the inventor of the plough, Saturn the inventor of the sickle, Bacchus the vine dresser, Ceres the goddess of harvests, and a host of others who were reputed to be patrons of the *sacred art.*

From the days of Chin-nong, the emperor of China has annually held the plough, and been honoured as the head husbandman of the empire.

The twenty-eight books upon Agriculture, of Mago the Carthagenian, were esteemed oracular, and were translated at the public charge, by a decree of the Roman senate. The sweetest poem of the Augustan age is the Georgics of Virgil, and it is as distinguished for the correctness of its maxims, as for the beauty of its versification.

The heroes and statesmen of ancient Rome, were found to-day in the camp and the forum, and to-morrow at the plough ; and "he was account-

ed most deserving, who tilled well his own ground."

Poetry, Philosophy and Eloquence, yielded their cheerful tribute, and History has conspicuously recorded upon her head roll, the names of Cyrus and Cincinnatus—Cato and Constantine—Fitzherbert and Crescenzio—Bedford, Sinclair, and, though last, not least, our own immortal Washington.

In our own days, what was confined to a few, has become the ruling passion of many. And a catalogue of those who by their labours, their example, and their patronage have contributed to the advancement of this noble object, would fill a volume. It is sufficient for us, that in the progress of events, we have fallen upon times and circumstances peculiarly propitious to an inquiry into our duty, and to the resolute determination to discharge it, with zeal and energy.

[TO BE CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT.]

FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

Extract of a letter to the Editor, from a respectable correspondent at Middlebury.

MR. SOUTHWICK,

Has any thing been written upon the propriety of introducing *Vetches* into more general use in this country. I for one am not much acquainted with the varieties of this production. I have often seen it mentioned in English publications as an *ameliorating crop*; and recommended as profitable in other respects. I am aware that this vegetable is ranked under the *pea genus*, but the common kind of English vetches certainly differs from our own field pea very considerably; and I should imagine that this difference could not arise wholly from the difference of soil and culture. The vines are described as growing to great length, and furnishing one important article of fodder for cattle. Still I confess my ignorance on the subject; and it may be the English vetches embrace no other varieties than what are found with us; if so, well; if not, I should be glad to hear from yourself, or some of your correspondents on the subject. J. H. L.

REMARKS.

We thank our correspondent of Middlebury, for calling our attention to the culture of the vetch, a crop recommended in the English books, as one that is ameliorating, and well calculated to precede that of wheat. We have seen nothing published on the culture of this plant in this country, except from the pen of the late Chancellor Livingston. That friend and patron of agricultural improvement, in the year 1794, imported 6 bushels of the seed of the spring, and 3 of the seed of the winter vetch, and in the spring of that year sowed 3 bushels of the former on an acre of ground, rather light and sandy, and, as it would seem, considerably exhausted. Six bushels of gypsum was applied as a top dressing for the crop, though two would, no doubt, have answered just as well. About a fifth of the ground was a steep side hill, and poor, and on this part the crop was very light. The product of the whole was about 25 cwt. of fodder, when cured. The next year he sowed the remaining 3 bushels on a knoll of dry ground, and manured as before. This was intended for raising a supply seed, which in England is usually about 25 or 30 bushels an acre. The crop grew as large as before, but afforded little or no seed, owing as it would seem to the excess of the gypsum applied to the crop running it all to haulm, or stalks, and to its causing it to ripen unequally, some stalks being only in blossom while others were dead ripe. The crop of the winter vetch we believe did not succeed very well, our winters being probably too severe for the plant. The Chancellor never made any further trials of the culture of the vetch that have been published, though he recommends it as preparatory for winter wheat or rye. The culture of it for this purpose would certainly be much preferable to the poor practice, too generally prevalent in this country, of summer fallowing for either of these winter crops, as the intervening one of the vetch may be taken without any exhaustion of the land, and without any additional ploughings. Ten acres yearly cultivated with the vetch will enable the farmer to keep 10 head more of cattle, which of course will afford him a yearly addition of 60 or 70 loads of manure. The vetch, being cut while in the green state, and being one of the class of plants which derive their principal nourishment from the atmosphere, while at the same time the growing crop forms a close covering for the soil, thereby promoting its fermentation, and defending it from the rays of the sun, is on the whole perhaps rather calculated to improve the land instead of exhausting it. Probably, with proper cultivation, about a ton and a half to the acre of this fodder, would be found the usual product; and, as the crop, when intended for this purpose, should be cut when the seeds have nearly attained their full size, it would seem that the additional nutriment afforded from these must render the fodder more valuable than hay of the best quality.

About 2 bushels of seed to the acre is probably sufficient, and in rearing the crop the culture should be very similar to that for peas. Let the seed be previously soaked in some stimulating liquid, such as brine, lye of wood-ashes, neither of these too strong however, or in urine, or water diluted with nitre or sulphuric acid, &c. &c. and then rolled in gypsum, before sowing.—When the crop is intended for fodder, give the ground a top dressing of gypsum, but when for a supply of seed, this manure it seems should not be applied. In this latter case the crop should stand till it is sufficiently ripened, and then cut and gathered in a manner similar to that of peas; where fodder is intended, cut it green as before mentioned, and cure it in a manner similar to that for making hay.

Perhaps it may, however, be found that other plants may be more profitably cultivated for supplies of fodder than the vetch. The Guinea corn is now cultivated in the southern states for this purpose, and is much approved. Perhaps even the common Indian corn, sown as early as the frost will admit, at the rate of about 3 bushels to the acre, with the treatment of the seed, and the manuring of the soil, above mentioned, would afford a much greater product; as it is probable that the growth might be twice mowed before the proper time for turning it under for the crop of wheat or rye that is to follow. In Italy we are informed that Indian corn is sown for fodder, and is mowed 3 and 4 times in the season.

FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

To the Editors of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal.

[CONCLUDED FROM OUR LAST.]

In the account of the passage of the British or French army from the Coast to Cairo, I have seen it observed by the narrator, that while the plague was raging in one village, the inhabitants of another, within a small distance, were entirely exempt, although no interruption of intercourse had taken place between them. It is also stated that the Turkish soldiers were under no apprehension of getting the plague, but plundered the houses where it had been, and wore the clothes of those who died of this disorder. Let us now review the subject. It is agreed that generally the plague begins to appear at Constantinople about the last of June; rarely more early. That city has 20 square miles of marsh in its vicinity; although under a despotic government, the dogs and vultures enjoy as much liberty as the long nosed quality, and perform the same duties as those do in the cities of the United States, and the streets of Constantinople, regale the olfactory nerves as much as those of New-York, Baltimore, Boston, or Philadelphia. Now it seems the plague begins at Stambeu, about the time it ceases in Egypt; I do not know that we hear of a non intercourse between the two countries, during the following months, yet it is rarely imported into Egypt till November, when the ponds and marshes of that country, have prepared the atmosphere for its reception. Egypt being now prepared for it, the plague begins to abate at Constantinople, where the frosts have arrested vegetable putrefaction. It reigns now, with uncontrolled sway, over the alluvion of Egypt, where frost is not known, till the water which has fallen in Nubia and Abyssinia, conveyed by the Nile, again sweeps the surface of Egypt, and destroys the source of pestilence. The Franks then leave their confinement, the bazars and shops are opened, and Egypt is again willing to part with the fell destroyer to the Porte or some other quarter of the world. Although there may be exceptions to this rule, I believe it will be allowed to exhibit the phenomenon of plague, on a general scale. Constantinople is in lat. 41 deg. 27; Cairo, lat. 30 deg. which shews that the probability that different means may produce the same effect at the two places. It is not improbable that the excessive heat of Egypt would soon exhaust the moisture necessary for vegetable putrefaction as the deserts on each side are found to be free from plague. Is it not remarkable that the plague makes its appearance at the Porte, about the same time that the yellow fever does in our cities, that when winter sets in, either disease is scarcely heard of at these places? In Egypt, where it may be said there is no winter, the plague is arrested by the overflowing of the Nile. Do not these circumstances lead us to suspect that the nature of the plague is not yet fully understood by Europeans in general. Stupid and superstitious as the Turks may be, yet self-

preservation has so powerful a hold on the human mind, that I strongly suspect they have experience on their side for not believing in the contagion of the plague. The true nature of the yellow fever is every day becoming better understood. I believe that there are very few well informed men either in the West Indies, or in America, that have any doubts on that subject. The numerous settlements making in the south and west by an industrious, intelligent, and observing people, will throw fresh light on the nature of this disease. The report of a committee similar to that of Mobile, who have no preconceived theories to support, ought to have great weight in this momentous affair. If it does not operate as a warning to those who in future erect conveniences for commerce, not to use perishable materials in the construction of docks; those who persist in that dangerous practice will be guilty of self-murder, as well as accessaries before the act, in the destruction of their fellow-citizens. During my residence among the marshes and swamps of the west, I frequently watched the condition of two ponds, near which I had occasion frequently to pass. They were near the outlet of a lake; when the waters were high, there was a free communication between the ponds and the lake, the waves of the latter passed into the ponds and kept the water fresh; but when the waters began to lower, the waves drove up the sand or shingle on the beach, forming a dam across the outlet of the pond. If the season proved dry, and the lake continued to decrease in depth, the water ponds gradually dried up, putrefaction began, they emitted a horrible stench; the easternmost and most shallow, effected the senses often, by the last of June, a fortnight before the westernmost, and would dry entirely up, cease to annoy the smell, and if no rain fell, become verdant with a growth of vegetables; but the other, whose bottom was on a level with the shallow part of the lake, although later in polluting the air, would continue the process till arrested by autumnal frost. I have known a whole village in which there was not a sick person, on the 20th of June, or indeed later, to be laid on their beds within 48 hours, evidently from the putrid effluvia, emanating from these ponds, the fact being ascertained by a shift in the wind, which brought the exhalations directly into the place, and some of these people had every symptom of yellow fever. It has for sometime been my opinion that a distinction ought to be made between contagion and infection.—Thus a disease may be contagious and not infectious, as Osora and Syphilus, it may be both as the measles and small pox. I believe that whatever may be the original nature of a fever, if permitted to run a protracted course, it may, under improper management, become infectious; yet I am confident that this is generally within the control of the physician, although I have in consultation, seen cases where infection seemed to have been communicated. I have not, in a practice of thirty-five years, had a single case where fever was propagatad in this manner.

I have found much benefit from the muriatic fumes; it certainly destroys the fœtor arising from fever, in a remarkable degree, with all the attachment for nosological distinction, which I imbibed at the school of the respectable Cullen. I must say that I have not unfrequently seen fevers commence with highly inflammatory and bilious symptoms, and gradually fall into the typhoid state. To those who have witnessed the epidemic diseases of America, the experiment made by Dr. M'Lean in the Greek pest house, and that by the Spanish physician at Havanna, were both most unphilosophically conducted; had these experiments been made to show their liability to the ordinary causes of disease, they might have been satisfactory, but what sensible man will decide whether they caught it by contagion, or from the air. The contagionists will support one doctrine, the anti-contagionists another, but let a patient, labouring under yellow-fever, be removed to a healthy part of the country, where the disease is unknown; let him be treated as fever patients ought to be; if he then communicates the disorder by contact, and it is disseminated over a healthy region, where it never existed before; I will then believe in the contagious nature of yellow fever; but amongst the thousands who have been removed to the country, I have not heard of such an instance. Let a similar experiment be made with a person labouring under the plague, and the result will show itself. I am induced to believe that the plague in London, originated in the filth of the city; from observations made accidentally, I am convinced that high temperature is not so necessary for the generation of yellow fever; in this I differ from some gentlemen who advocate the domestic origin. We know that heat alone will produce neither plague nor yellow fever; it must be combined with moisture; yet the water carriers of Cairo are almost exempt from plague. Now I believe heat and moisture are deleterious, only as promoting putrefaction. I have witnessed this going on at a low temperature and a large family sinking under the effect, unconscious of the latent cause; indeed their sensation had gradually become insensible to the fœtor, although the stench was intolerable to me, and first led to the discovering of a putrefying mass of vegetables, the exhalation from which, a keen and cool west wind was forcing out of the cellar, and diffusing through the house; but I must stop, lest you should suspect me of labouring under a *Cacaethoes Scribendi*, a malady almost as incurable as the plague, or yellow fever. You will easily perceive that I am not much in the habit of committing my thoughts to paper. My hopes of recognizing these observations in your excellent journal, depend more on the novelty of your having a correspondent in the backwoods of America than in any thing new or valuable in my communications; although I perceive some coincidence in the opinions of Dr. M'Lean and mine. I can assure you, I never have perused the writings of that gentleman, which from my remote situation, I have not been able to procure; all I know of his ideas are from the Medical Repository, published in New-York, and from the pages of your Journal.—If I am correct, he has lived many years in British India. I have spent the best part of my life in the forests and amongst the swamps and marshes of North-America.

Most respectfully yours, A. C.

Utica, Oneida county, State of New-York, North America, Aug. 1820.

A New System of Cultivation,

Without Lime, or Dung, or Summer Fallows: as practiced at Knowle Farm, in the County of Sussex. By Major-General Alexander Beatson, late Governor of the Island of St. Helena, and Honorary Member of the Board of Agriculture.

"Petty operations, incessantly continued, in time surmount the greatest difficulties, and mountains are levelled, and oceans bounded, by the slender force of human beings."—*Doctor Johnson.*

I. ON MANURING LANDS.

An important fact ascertained by the report of the Select Committee upon the corn trade. Suggestions for extending agricultural improvements. The dependence on foreign supplies of corn rapidly increasing. Expenses of cultivating wheat reduced from £16. to £5. per acre. Agricultural experiments in 1807, interrupted; continued at St. Helena; beneficial effects of, on that island. Experiments resumed in England, with a view to economy in manuring lands; to the abolition of fallows; and to lessening the charges of preparing the soil for the seed. Means of augmenting the value of landed property, opposite interests of landlord and tenant. Economy wanting in our agricultural system—illustrated by the Sussex practice Plans for lessening the heavy expenses of cultivation. Lime entirely abolished at Knowle Farm. Abundance of cheap and excellent manure obtained.

[CONTINUED.]

I have good reason to believe there are many farms, in their present state, of very little value, because the produce is kept much below what it might be, by such circumstances as I have mentioned: and that those farms might be made far more productive and profitable by certain changes in the mode of cultivation. Instead of that lavish expenditure for manure and labour, which is unfortunately but too prevalent—if the farmers were to strive by every possible means to obtain from their lands the largest quantity of the most useful and valuable productions, at the least possible expense, the greatest improvements might be expected. This, in my humble opinion, comprises a general rule or principle, which ought never to be lost sight of, in our endeavours to improve our systems of agriculture. But this rule appears to be wholly unattended to in the unimproved districts, where a blind adherence to custom, and a strong belief that nothing can surpass the old practice, added to an indifference to all new schemes, continue to operate as formidable checks to every species of improvement.

In districts where laudable exertions have been made to improve, I think it will appear that greater attention might yet be paid to rural economy. Wonders, indeed, may be performed by powerful implements and abundance of manure; or, in the words of Mr. Wimpey, "amazing things may be done by dint of labour and expense; but we are not inquiring after possibilities, but after what is really *the most profitable, and to be acquired at the least risk, and at the least expense.*"

This ought to be the criterion by which every new scheme of improvement should be judged. It should be submitted to the test of these short, but comprehensive rules. All the items of the expenses should be carefully examined; and if it appear, after defraying the whole that the difference between them and the value of the produce (or the profit of the farmer) is *greater* than he had by his former practice, then he may safely adopt that which is obviously advantageous, and a real improvement: but on the contrary, if a smaller profit remain to the farmer, the fallacy of the plan is immediately detected, and it ought in this case to be wholly rejected.

There seems reason to suspect that some of our modern practices have not been submitted to such nicety of investigation, otherwise, it is scarcely possible, that the following remarks, which are but too applicable to the present time, could have found their way into so respectable a work as the Encyclopedia Britannica.

"Thus we see," say the Editors, "that in the course of half a century, methods have been found out of eradicating weeds, destroying insects, saving vast quantities of seed corn, of suiting the crops to the soil, of using new manures, raising new plants, and all this, together with multitudes of new machines, for performing in a better manner the operations of agriculture, has apparently amounted to mere nothing. The price of provisions seems to have began to rise with the improvements, and to be continually advancing."*

This failure in the expectations of those eminent persons who have laboured in the cause of agriculture, and the slow progress that has been made in this most useful art (which is universally felt and acknowledged) seems to have proceeded from the causes I have already stated, and particularly, from the very heavy expenses incurred by those farmers who adhere to ruinous practices, that ought long since to have been abolished.

Some idea may be formed of the evil consequences arising from a waste of animal labour, and from expensive management, by the following detail of the process of cultivation, almost invariably practised in the vicinity of my farm.—The lands are stiff, abounding with clay, retentive of surface moisture, but when dried by the summer heat, they become as hard as a brick, and are impervious to the plough, unless with a great power of animal exertion, particularly as the general mode is to plough deep.

The long established rotation in this part of Sussex, is, 1. Fallow and lime. 2. Wheat. 3. Oats. 4. Clover and ray-grass; and not unfrequently, during the fifth year, the clover and ray-grass remain.

CHARGES OF CULTIVATION.

An acre of clover lay prepared for wheat.

	l. *s.* *d.*	*l.* *s.* *d.*
Breaking up the clover lay	1 0 0	
2d ploughing in May	0 17 6	
3d ditto in July	0 17 6	
4th ditto in September or October	0 17 6	
		3,12 6
1 1 2 waggon load of lime, between 3d and 4th ploughing	7 10 0	
Carting and spreading ditto	0 6 0	
		7 16 0
6 harrowings after 3 first ploughings		
2 ditto after the 4th ploughing		
3 ditto after the seed is sown		
11 harrowings, at 10 acres per day		0 9 0
Seed wheat 2 1-2 bushels, at 10s.	1 5 0	
Sowing and rolling	0 1 6	
		1 6 6
Rent for the year of fallow	0 15 0	
Taxes for ditto	0 15 0	
		1 10 0
Rent and taxes for the year of crop		1 10 0
Total expense per acre		16 4 0

Labour 4*l.* 3*s.*—*Manure* 7*l.* 10*s.*—*Loss of rent and taxes* 1*l.* 10*s.*

During part of the time I was absent at St. Helena, my farm was managed according to this mode. Upon examining the accounts, it may well be imagined that I had no cause to boast of profit. I therefore resolved to look into the items of expense, and to trace the whole progress of the operations from the commencement of the fallow to the close of a four or five years rotation. At present, however, for the sake of brevity and perspicuity, I shall confine these observations to the culture of wheat.

A statement, similar to that which has been just detailed, was made out according to the best information I could obtain, and which has since been verified by my own experience, and by the confession of every neighbouring farmer to whom I have shown it. Therefore, 16*l.* per acre may be taken as the actual charges of cultivation of lands which yield the proprietor no more than fifteen shillings! The causes of so inadequate a rent, for land that will sometimes yield from 12*l.* to 15*l* value in crop, I have already explained; and the preceding statement most clearly proves, that the defects of this ancient husbandry* are to be attributed to the enormous expenses for labour and lime; and to the addition of a year's rent and taxes for the year of fallow.

Seeing, therefore, that to continue such a course of cultivation would be attended with certain loss upon the wheat crop, I actually suspended my wheat culture for a whole year, and had resolved to abandon farming altogether, if I could not devise some other mode of cultivation far less expensive.

As a substitute for lime, I first tried Lord Meadowbank's compost of peat and dung, which produced a considerable effect. Afterwards, I burnt marle, conceiving, as it contained a portion of calcareous matter, that, by calcination, and proportioning the quantity laid upon an acre, it might produce a similar effect to lime. The effect of the burnt marle seemed to promise well, for, in the spring of 1815, a top dressing having been laid on two acres of wheat, at the rate of 300 bushels per acre, the crop grew so high and exuberant, that a great part was laid by its own weight. I do not, however, consider this experiment as decisive of the effect of calcined marle. It seems probable that the ashes of the peat, with which the marle was burnt, may have contributed in a great measure to produce it.

I found considerable difficulty in burning the marle, in heaps or clumps, on account of its crumbling in pieces, and thereby choaking the fire. This rendered the operation expensive.—Fortunately, just at the time I was engaged in these researches for a substitute for lime, a friend in Scotland sent me Mr. Craig's papers on the subject of burning clay.

Immediately upon receiving them, I constructed kilns according to his directions. The season being wet, with only short intervals of dry weather, I had great difficulty in drying the peat. Some of the kilns succeeded: but frequently I was disappointed by the dampness of the peat; and then my labour and expenses were entirely thrown away.

From the trials I had made of Mr. Craig's kilns, I perceived, when any thing went wrong in the beginning that there was no remedy, because there is no command over the fires after they are kindled. It therefore occurred, that to have the fires placed in such a manner as to admit of fresh supplies of fuel might be an improvement. By this means no disappointments could happen, and the operation of burning, could at all times, excepting in very wet weather, be carried on with a certainty of success.

Such are the kilns I have, for some time past, used; but, as their form and construction will be described in another place, it is sufficient here to state that they have completely answered my expectations; and that the expense of burning clay, or stiff soil, or marle, in them, is from ten pence halfpenny to a shilling per cart load of sixteen bushels.

Many experiments were made for ascertaining the efficacy of those calcined materials. Their effects were compared with those of lime, dung, raw marle, wood ashes, and peat and dung; and after having satisfied myself that clay, or soil, or marle, are equal, and in some instances proved superior, in effect, to any of those manures, I resolved to establish kilns in the most convenient situations, with a view to shortening the distances to which those materials are to be carried. I have at present four of those kilns which contain 800 cart loads, by which I could easily burn from 1600 to 2400 cart loads, or more, during the year. I have, therefore, a perfect command of an excellent and cheap manure, all over my farm, in readiness to be applied whenever it may be required; and as the usual quantity laid upon an acre is only 20 cart loads, or 320 bushels, at each dressing, the cost of the material is not more than 20 shillings: whereas, by the use of lime, at the rate of 1 1-2 waggon load, or 108 bushels, the expense, as already shown, would be 7*l.* 10*s.* per acre.

Having in this manner completely succeeded in obtaining the cheapest of all substitutes for lime or dung, I next turned my attention to the abolition of fallows, and to reducing the expenses of labour in preparing the lands for the seed.

* Vide Husbandry.

* The husbandry of this part of Sussex appears to have remained unaltered for many ages: with the single exception of substituting lime for marle. This change took place about forty or fifty years ago; when, by the improvements of high ways, they became passable for waggons. There are many large marle pits in this neighbourhood: now but rarely resorted to. Hence, the charges of cultivation have been augmented, by the greater expense of lime, brought from a distance of twenty-two miles; and by the more frequent application of it, than of marle, for the purpose of manuring the fallows.

In other respects the husbandry seems to correspond with the practice at the period of the Norman invasion in 1066: for at that period, we are told "Summer fallowing of lands designed for wheat, and ploughing them several times, were practised by English farmers" Some traces of the Virgilian husbandry remain; particularly the winnowing machine with sails.

The invasion of the Normans must have contributed very much to the improvement of agriculture; as many thousands of husbandmen from Flanders, France and Normand, settled in Britain and obtained estates, or farms, and cultivated them after the manner of their country. The implements used at this time were of the same kind as those employed at present: but some were less perfect in their construction. The plough, for example, had but one stilt, or handle, and in Normandy it was drawn by *one* or *two oxen*. Their chief manure, next to dung, was marle.

THE PLOUGH BOY.

ALBANY: SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1821.

FROM THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Cheese Making

Sir.—When I commenced farming, now more than thirty years since, I determined to have the cheese used on the farm, made upon it, and set about inquiring of the best dairy men and women for their process. I read all the books to be had on the subject, particularly Anderson's Rural Economy containing his account of cheese making in the different counties of England, which I borrowed, as it was not then to be purchased in this country. And thus prepared, I set about the business, with a dairy woman more ignorant of the business than myself. I had felt from my boyhood, a great aversion to honey comb, or eylet hole cheese; and I determined not to have any with that defect, not then knowing its principal cause; the use of too much rennet, which operates like too much yeast in bread, destroying the flavor, and producing an extra fermentation. To avoid this evil I applied such power in pressing the cheese, that I absolutely expressed not only the whey, but every particle that constituted richness, and spoiled the produce of the milk of six cows during the cheese making season of one year. Mr. P—— joined the rest of my friends, in laughing heartily at my blunders—it did not, however, discourage me, and I continued my exertions a year or two longer, when I was completely successful, and my cheese was pronounced by the best judges, equal to any made in this or in any other country. Several gentlemen, all of whom had travelled, and were well acquainted with the cheese made here and in Europe., pronounced in favour of my Brighton Cheese. After I had discovered the cause of my first year's mistake, and had established myself with my friends and acquaintance, I determined to ascertain the exact proportion of every ingredient, and describe the manner of performing the whole process, that my dairy women might take the management, and continue to make cheese of the most approved quality. This was done in 1807, with a cheese made in the common form, and in 1811 with a Pine Apple Cheese—they both proved of an excellent quality, and were thought fully equal to any that had been made on the farm. Marshall states "that the pine apple cheese is pressed by its own weight," but I could not succeed without applying a weight and using a mould, the meshes of the net were pressed into the curd when it was in the mould, and the cheese when dry, had all the appearance of the handsomest imported pine apple shaped cheese.—My Dairy memorandas were used on the farm of my late father, and the cheese proved excellent.

Mr.——has had cheese made by them of which he is not a little proud; I ate some of his cheese, and thought the best dairy women in our country would have pronounced it of the first quality—Governor G——, from the recommendation of Mr. L. sent for a copy from my Farm Dairy the last season, but the result of his experiment I have not yet heared.—Accompanying this, you have the extracts made by my niece, who (not a little prejudiced perhaps) says her uncle's cheese is better than any she has met with—and when I expressed some doubts of my memoranda, being such as I ought to send to you, she insisted that go they must, and although not very well, she would make the extracts, and set up a claim to have her way, as she assi-ted when a little girl, and made the notes for my Pine Apple Cheese. *They were made plain and minute so as to be easily understood—and if they prove of any use, I shall be glad.*

Very respectfully your's, &c.

P*******.

PINE APPLE CHEESE.

Brighton, Sept. 27th, 1811.

One quart of cream, from last night's milk, was put to twenty quarts new milk from cows this morning, warmed in a *clean brass kettle* to 95 degrees by Farenheit's thermometer,* then strained into a cheese-tub. One table spoonful of strong rennet, and a piece of Spanish annetoa the size of a large pea, were then put into the tub. After it had stood half an hour, the curd was well formed; it was then crossed with a wooden knife. Half an hour after, the curd was broken gently by hand, and in half an hour more was *wheyed off*, as it is termed. The curd appeared well—the whey thin and of a greenish colour, which is always desirable. The curd was then scalded in Whey. Two hours after we put into the curd three table spoonfuls of fine salt, and one tea spoonful of salt petre. The curd was next put into a bag with the net out side, and then placed in the mould, the screw press was now applied, gently at first, and increased through the day. At eight o'clock in the evening, the cheese was taken out of the mould, the net and bag taken off, the net then put next to the cheese, and the bag outside; the cheese thus covered was put into the mould again, and pressed with increased force until next day at 12 o'clock—it was then taken out, and was found to have been well pressed; the meshes of the net had made a deep and handsome impression.—The cheese was then hung up in the Cheeses Room, in the net, but without the bag. Ten days afterwards, the net was taken off—the cheese wiped every day for six weeks, and rubbed with the following preparation:

Salt pork tried out, and melted butter of equal parts. A common saucer full when melted, to be browned a little over the fire, then strained perfectly clear, and a piece of Spanish anneto added, the size of a large pea or common bean, which must be dissolved and properly stirred in the fat, and when cool it will be fit for use.

The above mentioned pine apple cheese was cut December 22d, 1813—it weighed six pounds and one quarter, and connoisseurs pronounced it to be of the first quality. Frequently, and usually it passed for an English cheese and highly commended as such.

This cheese is also called "Cream Cheese," and it is difficult to make one more rich.

TWO MEAL CHEESE—*Dairy memoranda.*

Brighton, Sept. 27th, 1807.

The cream was taken this morning from the milk of last night, and this morning's milk added to the milk just skimmed, making together five and one half gallons, which was then strained into a clean brass kettle, and warmed to 95 degrees by Farenheit's thermometer; it was then put into the cheese-tub—a piece of rennet of the usual thickness, one inch and one quarter square 1 pennyweight fourteen grains of salt-petre, (which when fine, filled the bowl of a common tea-spoon level with the top) and one grain and a half of Spanish annetto, (a piece the size of a common pea,) were put into the milk; which stood an half hour, till the curd rose and was fit for crossing, when it was crossed with a wooden knife, used for that purpose. It was then left 25 minutes longer, when the whey was separated from the curd, and it was broken up by hand. After it had settled, the whey was taken off gradually—the curd was then scalded in whey, after which it was chopped quite fine, and two table spoonsful of fine salt sprinkled over it. And it was then put into the cheese hoop, and pressed very gradually at first; but as soon as the rind had formed, the power of the press was increased, by applying heavier weights to the lever. This cheese when taken from the press was put in the cheese room, turned every day, wiped clean, and once every week for six weeks rubbed with fresh butter.

It was cut in the month of January, 1808, and proved very good.

* The warmth of milk directly from the cow.

FROM THE CHARLESTON PATRIOT—COMMUNICATED.

The Early Comfort Bush Beans.

The excellent beans are of oval shape, and of moderate size; of a color chiefly white, tinged with a lively red, especially about the eye.—The culture of them *originated*, after various experiments, in *cool-comfort-garden*, near this City, and it was there successfully continued for some years, and their product widely disseminated.—They have now taken the name of *early comfort beans*, to distinguish them from all other sorts, both native and imported, over which, it is presumed, from long experience, they may fairly claim a decided superiority. They were originally called the early *stringless* beans, because the young ones, when gathered in due time, do not require *stringing*. When boiled they are peculiarly tender and well tasted, and may be justly ranked with the first order of choice esculents. They will resist the summer's heat; and, if planted in due proportions, and at proper intervals, will afford an ample supply for the table, (in ordinary seasons) five or six months in the year, and at a time too, when there may be a general deficiency of other vegetables.

But exclusive of their excellence for culinary purposes, these valuable beans possess another latent intrinsic property, which, when generally known, cannot fail to insure a ready introduction of them to numerous families, who wish to augment their domestic comfort. Strange as it may seem, this property consists in their astonishing efficacy in *destroying* those very loathsome insects called the *chints or bed-bugs!*

In seasons when there is no prospect of an approaching frost, let a quantity of these beans be planted—when they are well advanced in their growth, so that the leaves be properly expanded,

let a requisite number of the plants be taken green and fresh, (but not wet) in the evening, and placed thickly about the bed and bedding, or in those parts of the bed room where the bugs are most numerous ; this done, you may expect to obtain a comfortable night's repose, free from the annoyance of those troublesome intruders, however great it might have hitherto been ; for in the morning you will find most of them closely adhering to the leaves and stalks of the plants, where they will continue in a torpid motionless state, without the ability of escaping. Let the plants be replaced with fresh ones a few times, and you will be no longer infested with these detestable purloiners of your comfort.—Probatum est, by. A SUBSCRIBER.

Weekly Summary.

Progressive Census of the City and State of New-York—In the year 1756, city 10 881, state 94,616—in 1771, city 21,865, state 163,338—in 1786, city 23,614, state 238,804—in 1790, city 33,131, state 340,120—in 1800, city 60,489, state 586,141—in 1810, city 96,373, state 959,049—in 182[illegible], city 123,706, state not ascertained, but supposed to amount to 1,360,000.

We understand that a narrative of the expedition under Gov Cass to the sources of the Mississippi, will be shortly published by Mr Schoolcraft

At Cooperstown, a Mr. Herrington has been convicted and sent to the State Prison, for swearing in a vote at the last election for Governor—a very just punishment for such perjury

On the 17th ult. the dwelling-house of Mr. James Maxwell, in Otego, was consumed by fire, and a boy of 9, and a girl of 4 years of age, perished in the flames

On the 18th ult. the ferry boat at Black Rock sunk with 10 or 12 passengers on board, who were all saved, excepting an infant of seven or eight months old

It appears by the annual report of a committee of the trustees of the New-York Society Library, that the number of volumes belonging to the library is, 14,917, and that the clear property of the institution, in buildings and books, is estimated at $34,345 The income of the society is derived from yearly payments upon the library shares, and amounts to $2,464; of which sum, after payment of all other expenses, there remains annually $1,363 to be applied to the purchase of books.

A pair of horses only fifteen hands high, owned by Messrs. D. & O. W. Swan, of Galway, Saratoga county, drew on the 6th Jan. a load consisting of 311 boards, from Foster's Hill, in Galway, to Varnum's Landing, in Stillwater, a distance of 25 miles The boards were 10 inches in width, making 3628 feet, and averaged in weight 20 lbs. each, which is equal to 103 bushels, 40 lbs. of wheat!

Statistics.—The deficiency on the public revenue, estimated for the current year, is $4,639,536, which is to be made up by a loan The expenditure for the present year will be less than 15 millions and a half, and that of next year is expected to be under 15 millions The retrenchments in the civil, military, and naval departments, during the 16th Congress, have saved to the nation, $4,447,155.

Exports from the United States during 1820. Pot and Pearl ashes, 8,625 tons—beef 53,891 bbls—Flour 1,177 036 bbls.—Fish, dried 321,496 quints.—pickled 87,916 bbls.—Flaxseed 220,914 bushels—Indian corn 533,741 bushels—Pork 44,091 bbls—Rice 71,663 tierces—Tobacco 83,940 hhds—Tar 38,176 bbls.—Pitch 3,838 bbls.—Turpentine 75,749 bbls.—Wheat 22,137 bushels.

There was struck at the United States mint last year, the following:—In gold coins, 263,806 pieces, amounting to $1.319,030,00—In silver coins, 1,321,153 pieces, amounting to $501,680 70;—And in copper coins, 4,407,550 pieces, amounting to $44,075 50. Making, in the whole, six millions four hundred and ninety-two thousand five hundred and nine pieces; amounting to one million eight hundred and sixty-four thousand seven hundred and eighty-six dollars, and twenty cents.

The amount of salt imported into the United States, from the commencement of the government to December 31, 1819, was 77,751 024 bushels; paying a duty of 13 694 065 dollars. Bounties and allowances to vessels employed in the Fisheries, and on pickled fish, and salted provisions exported, 2 817 448 dollars.

Mr. Adams, Secretary of State, of the U. S. has made a report to Congress on weights and measures, and standards of value, which will make a large octavo volume.

A curious document was lately laid before Congress, being a transcript of all the *lists of passengers* which arrived in the United States from October 1, 1819, to September 30, 1820, inclusive. The following is an abstract of this document:—Useful productive class 1987, useful unproductive class 1730, ornamental and amusing unproductive class 148—3865—occupation unknown, principally women and children, 3136—Total arrived in the United States 7001—of these there are 1959 females, 5042 males, total 7001. Of this whole number, according to the occupations specified, there belong to agriculture 997—commerce 1461—manufactures, hard labour, the arts, liberal professions, refined classes, &c. 1407—Total 3865.

The whole number of patents granted during the year 1820, are 140—the greater part are for improvements.

The House of Representatives of Pennsylvania have passed a resolution, 58 to 28, to borrow $1,000,000, to be expended on internal improvements.

The Massachusetts Agricultural Society has presented a gold medal to General Coffin, of St. John, province of New-Brunswick, together with a complete sett of the societies' publications, in return for the general having requested their acceptance of a valuable stud horse, imported by him from England, to improve the breed of horses in this country.

The Massachusetts Essex Agricultural Society has fixed on the 11th and 12th of October for their cattle show and fair.

The Island of Nantuckei is famous for its numerous sheep; and sheering time is one of their most jovial holidays. It is said, that out of 20,000 sheep the late severe weather killed about 500

At Milton, N. C. tobacco sold at $6 per hundred, on the 11th ult.

Eight vessels, principally ships of the largest size, are now building on the Merrimack.

The Bank Tax in New-Jersey, produces 11,400 dollars Their school fund is 133,000 dollars

Newburyport, Feb. 23.—We are sorry to hear that the unproductive state of the fisheries, the last season, and the low price they have brought at market, have induced the fishing company in this town to discontinue business as an association

The Legislature of Kentucky have passed a law granting widows, who are not worth 100 dollars, one hundred acres of land each

Number of Religious Societies in Massachusetts Congregational 373, Baptists 153, Methodists 67, Friends 39, Episcopalians 22, Universalists 23, Presbyterians 10, Roman Catholic 1, Freewill Baptists 5, Sandamanian 2, Shakers 4, Swedenborgean 1—Total, 700.

Prices of provisions at Pittsburgh, Feb. 5, 1821. Flour per barrel $1 75, whiskey per gallon 16 cents, wheat per bushel 37 1-2 cents, oats do. 15 cents, corn do. 25 cents, apples do. 25 cents, beef per pound 3 cents, pork do. 3 cents, veal do. 3 cents, venison do. 3 cents, butter do. 12 1-2 cents, lard do. 6 cents, bacon do 6 cents.

The laws of the state of Delaware now impose a tax on the owners of every steam-boat of twenty-five cents for each grown passenger, and twelve and an half cents each for children. Owners of stages are obliged to pay eight per cent on all monies received from passengers.

The Rev. Benjamin B Wisner, late of Geneva, N. Y. has been ordained to the pastoral care of the old South Church and congregation in Boston

The number of prisoners in the Pennsylvania Penitentiary in 1820, was 603 males, and 84 females

Arson.—Stephen Merrill Clark, a lad of 17, of Newburyport, Mass. has been convicted of setting fire to a barn, by which four dwelling-houses were burnt. The punishment is *death*.

The coldest days of the present season at Halifax were the 15th and 16th ult. The thermometor on the first mentioned day fell to 22 deg. below zero, and on the day following to 34 deg.

Fire—A large cotton factory, 3 miles from Petersburg, Va. situated on Swift Creek, and valued at $40,000, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday of last weed. The fire was supposed to be occasioned by the friction of the machinery. This valuable establishment belonged to Messrs. Hayward & Co. of Petersburgh.

New-Convent.—The Augusta (Geo.) Herald, states that in consequence of the "energetic discourses" of the Roman Catholic Bishop in that place, a new convent is about to be established there, and that "young men and women from all parts of the union are candidates for this desirable state of celibacy."

The anniversary of the birth day of Washington was celebrated at Philadelphia by a public dinner, and an appropriate address was delivered by John M. Read, Esq Among the printed toasts we find the following:

Education.—The companion of purity and innocence, the guardian angel of liberty, the harbinger of glory.

Commerce.—Free as the air that wafts its sails—boundless as the waters upon which it moves—fruitful as the earth which provides its stores.

Agriculture.—The strong hand of liberty alone can guide the ploughshare, and reap the fertile field.

Manufactures.—Duly regulated, and prudently encouraged, at once the parent and the offspring of industry and virtue.

A shipment has taken place to Florida, from Darien, of a cargo of sugar cane plants, cotton seed and farming utensils, for a settlement on the Apalachicola river, called Forbes' purchase, where the sea-island cotton has already been cultivated. "This land is also well adapted (says a Savannah paper) to the cultivation of the Sugar cane; which, taking into view the depressed situation of the cotton trade, offers to the planter additional inducements to go thither, provided the Floridas are ceded to this country, of which there scarcely remains any doubt."

Bald Eagle.—One of the largest of this monarch of the feathered tribe, ever seen in this vicinity, was shot during the last week, at Milton, by Mr. Charles Cary, of that place, with a single ball, at the distance of eighteen rods. He measured from the extremity of one wing to that of the other, 7 feet 5 inches; from the extremity of his back to that of his talons, 3 feet; and weighed 15 lbs. He has been presented to the Columbian Museum, where he may be seen—*Boston Gazette.*

The Literary Gazette.—The Boston Evening Gazette says, "The Analectic Magazine, which has been for a long time, one of our most popular Journals, and been conducted at times by some of our most distinguished scholars, has been recently changed into a weekly Journal, entitled, "The Literary Gazette, or Journal of Criticism, Science and the Arts." It is issued every Saturday from the press of James Maxwell, Philadelphia, each number containing sixteen demi quarto pages We think this plan decidedly the best It is the one adopted by the publishers of the London Literary Gazette, and from the specimen of the American Journal which we have seen, we doubt not it will equal the excellence of that very popular English paper. It is in the form best adapted to circulate, and diffuse interesting literary information through the community, and with the treasures of Europe at command, and our own rich domestic sources, we doubt not this paper will merit, and we hope receive, exclusive and permanent patronage

In a late number of Blackwood's Magazine, among the works preparing for the press, we notice 'Remarks made during a tour through the *United States* of America, in the years 1817, 1818 and 1819, by W. T. Harris.' Also, 'Oliver Cromwell, and his Times, by Thomas Cromwell.'

A late London paper asserts that a real Mermaid has arrived at that port, from Bencoola, Sumatra; that it has a perfect human shape, from the head to the middle; and all below, a tail like a dolphin.

Errata.—In the article signed J. N. in the last number of this paper, 2d paragraph, 4th line from the top, for "a *quarter* or less proportion" read a *greater* or less, &c. In the 14th line from the bottom, for "a common *pear*" read a common *hair*.

Wright's Plough.

At the ploughing match, under the direction of the Montgomery County Agricultural Society, at their annual exhibition at Johnstown in October last, *Burden's plough, Wood and Starbuck's plough, Mead's plough, the Scotch plough, and Wright's plough*, were exhibited, and tried in said match. And we the subscribers, a committee appointed by said society for the purpose of examining said ploughs, and attending said match, do hereby certify, that on examination, we found that Wright's plough, constructed by *Mr* Stewart Wilson, did the best work with the least power; and that the premium was awarded by us, to Wright's plough, as being the best shown to us at that exhibition. And we also awarded the premium for the best ploughing, to the person who held Wright's plough, as having performed the best work. The committee therefore recommend it as the best and cheapest plough, now in use within their knowledge We have no wish to detract from the merits of any plough now in use, but feel it a duty we owe to our fellow farmers, to publish this certificate

ALEXANDER Sr. JOHN,
HENRY FONDA,
SAMUEL VOORHEES,
WM. WOODWARD.

February 23, 1821.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1821,

KEPT AT THE CITY ACADEMY IN ALBANY.

days.	Thermom'r 7 a m	Thermom'r 2 p m	Thermom'r 9 p m	Barometer. 7 a m	Barometer. 2 p m	Barometer. 9 p m	Winds. morn'g	Winds. after'n.	Weather. morn'g	Weather. aftern.	Observations.
1	36	37	32	29.66	29.80	29.91	NW	W	Cloudy	Cloudy	
2	27	38	34	29 88	29 74	29 72	S	S E	do	do	
3	30	33	30	29.98	30 01	29 98		N	do	do	Snow in the evening and night.
4	26	31	28	29 87	29 82	29.82	NW	NW	do	do	Mist all day and snow—evening.
5	24	25	21	29.8	29.87	30 11	do		do	do	
6	12	31	25	30 16	30.15	29 99	S	S	Clear	Clear	
7	26	44	31	29 65	29 51	29 50	S E	S E	Cloudy	Cloudy	Snow occasionally.
8	24	30	26	29 67	29 78	29.76	W	W	Clear	do	
9	20	35	34	29 90	29 89	29 68	S	E	Cloudy	do	
10	32	40	35	29 68	29 89	29 96	S W	W	do	do	High wind.
11	28	3	35	30 12	30.14	30 05	NW	N	do	do	Rain in the evening.
12	34	45	39	29 80	29 38	9 43	S E	S E	do	do	
13	36	40	33	29 70	29 60	29 85	W	W	do	Clear	
14	30	34	31	29 65	29 30	29.15	E	S E	do	Cloudy	Snow all day.
15	30	6	31	29 30	29 50	29 54	W	W	do	do	
16	24	33	24	29 1	29.32	29.07	NW	NW	do	do	Heavy fall of snow,
17	24	0	28	28 92	28 90	29 02	do	W	do	do	Snow at intervals.
18	27	34	27	29 9	29 40	29.53	W	do	Clear	Clear	
19	20	37	36	29 70	9 67	29 60	do	S	Cloudy	do	
20	33	41	39	29 40	29 34	29 62	S E	do	do	Cloudy	
21	28	39	29	29 80	29 82	29 76	W	W	Clear	Clear	
22	28	34	29	29 76	29 78	29 80	do	N	Cloudy	Cloudy	
23	26	34	33	29.60	29.32	29 47	N E	S	do	do	Snow A. M. and at night.
24	20	26	23	29 85	29 90	30 00	W	W	do	do	
25	14	32	27	30.10	30 11	30.11	S	S	Clear	Clear	
26	24	37	3	30 05	29.87	29 61	do	do	do	do	
27	25	29	21	29.84	30 00	30 10	W	W	do	do	
28	18	26	30	30.10	30 00	29 88	S W	S E	Cloudy	Cloudy	Hail and snow P. M.

LIST OF LETTERS,

Remaining in the Post-Office, Albany, 1st March, 1821.

☞ Persons calling for the following Letters, will please to mention that they are advertised.

A.—Major Gen. Armstrong, Nathaniel Ambrose, Samuel Alger, Robert Anderson, William Avery, 2, Rev. B. Ambler, Peter Althouse, Nicholas Allyn, Angeline Ashly.

B.—A. Benson, J. Beatte, Wm. Brigham, Samuel R Bates, David Bockes, Samuel Bates, John Buxton, Thomas Brown, Silas Booth, Almond Bostwick, Hastings R Bender, Samuel Brooks, Charles Barker, Ashly C. Baker, Wm. Baldwin, Robert Bromley, James Brown, E. F Backus, David R. Brown, Thomas A. Bridgen, Bordon Blaker, Thomas Brown, George Bloom, Joshuah Badgely, Thomas Barret, Medad Beach, James Brannon, Jonithan Burr, John Burns, Mis Roxana Bates, 2, Miss Rebecca Bussing, Fanny Booth, Jane Barrows.

C.—Paul Clark, Augustus Cuyler, 2, Wm. Cammel, Robert Cain, Joseph Chadsey, Joseph Chancey, Henry Case, Philemon S Cooly, Enoch Colby, Elisha Condit, Philip Coper, Winant Crannel, Hezekiah S. Calf, Samuel Chadwick, Oliver Capron, Paul Cushman, Reuben Cole, David Carty, Samuel Cuthburt, Eli Clark, Mrs. Cynthia Cornell, Mrs. Clarissa Capron, Miss Sarah Ann Churchill, Miss Mary G. Campbell, Miss Catharine S. Crocker.

D.—John F. Doty, Adrian Day, & Co. Abraham Drummond, James Demarest, Wm. Dearmor, Thomas Doyle Israel Day, Richard Decharms, Solomon Davis, Wm. Davason. Peter Donnelly, Joseph Dalzell, E. Dorchester, to B C D Leonard M. Davis, Robert Daniels, John Downs, Maurice Davis, Mrs. Morriah Dedereck, Mrs. Sally Durand, Mrs. Matilda M. Davis, Miss Sophia Dyer, Miss Davis, Miss Day.

E.—James Eaton, Miss Mary Eldred.

F.—George H. Feetar, John C. French, Abel French, Persis Frisbey, Eli Fitch, Josiah French, Ebenezer Foote.

G.—Barent Germond, James Gaddes, Enoch Gale, Fonda Groesbeck, Nathaniel Green, Thomas Griggs, Jacob Gerhard, Benjamin Goodrich, John Gilbert, Mrs. Hannah Green, Miss Jane Gordon, 2.

H.—Moses Hayden, 8, Stephen Herriman, 2, John Herkimer, Rosamund Huntoon, David Hosford, 2, Thomas Hodge, Jacob Haight, H. Henlett, John E. Hinman, Alfred Hovey, Wm. Hagadorn, Wm. Healy, Stephen Hungerford, Miss Sally Harwell, Rebecca Hand.

J.—E. Jones, & Co. John Johnson, Capt. J. L. Judson, Elisha Jenkins, Henry Jackson.

K.—Hon. James Kent, Moss Kent, Levi Knight, William King, Henry Kease, John Klapp, George Kilbourn, Edward Kirkpatrick, Robert Keamey, Robert S. Kinnicut.

L.—Harry Lathrop, William Leavenworth, Bernhd. Loser, James Landen, Harmanus Lansing 3, Jacob Lansing 2, Henry Lagrange, Lansing & Staats, Matthew Lake, The Lieutenant Governor, Noah Lozer, Jeremiah Lockwood, John Lottridge, John Liswall, Miss Betsey Lisk, Miss Amy Lewis, Miss Catharine Lord, Miss Ruth Lobdell, Miss Frances Lewis, Mrs. Edy Loker

M.—Wm. M'Dougall, James Moore, Abner Merriam, Wm. W. Mansall. Edward Merrittt Benjamin M'Genness, Philip Miller, Charles A. L'Mercem, Nancy M'Gregor, Donald M'Donald, William M'Clare, Fonda Morse, William Mannin, William M'Kown, Capt. James Maher, Robert M'Connell, Willis Merritt, Mrs Margaret T. Mills, Miss Julia M'Grath, Mary Mc Carty, Mrs. Merritt.

N.—Ichabod Nye, John Norton, Charles Nichols.

O.—James Oliver, *Miss* Philina Otis

P.—Ananias Platt, Joseph Parker, Betts Patterson, Jonas Platt, 4, Ruel Phillips, Calvin Pepper, Peter Pine, Stephen Paddock, Peter B. Porter, Jacob Piercey, John H. Peasley, Joseph Pierce, Chauncey S Payn, Chester Phelps, Ferris Pell, Joseph T. Peirce, Thomas Phaenix.

Q.—Abraham Quackenbush.

R.—Thomas W. Rosell, John Bowdon, Joseph L. Richardson, Rufus A. Reed, S. Ruger, David Russell, Benjamin Robinson, James Rodgers, Alexander Richards, Capt. Jed. Rogers, Wm. *M.* Ryan, A. Ross, Wm. Rodrick, Sally Rivington.

S.—Joel Squier, Samuel Stephenson, Wm. Spafford, Christian Sackrider, 2, Livi Silliman, John Shatswell, Barent G. Staats, J. *M.* Skinner, Jacob Shooke, 2. Rich'd L. Smith, 2, Charles Smith, D. B. Stackholm, 2. Wm. Seymour, *Messrs.* Solomon Smith, & Co. *Messers.* Spencer & Pomeroy, Harmanus P. Schuyler, Joseph Smith, Jos. G. Spencer, Charles Stanford, Walter H. Silver, Francis Sim, R. C. Skinner, William Sill, George Sherman, James Sealy, Charles Spalding, S. Sherwood, Gen. Philetus Swift, 5, *Mrs.* Susan Shaw, *Miss* Rachel Stuart.

T.—John Taylor, 2, Joseph Trembley, Henry Turner, Samuel Stevens, John C. Tillotson, Abraham Ten Eyck, Dr. Torbett, James Trice, 2, Peter S. Townsend, Calvin Thompson, Charles D Townsend.

V.—John Van Zandt, Teunis Van Vechten, Cornelius Van Antwerp, Joseph Vannino, 3, John Vandeberg Joseph Vanduzen

W.—Robbeson Wilkinson, Giles K. Winey, Jomes Waine. Ananias Wells 2, Hiram S. Woodruff. John M. Wood, J. W. Weble, Joseph Wardell, George Wilson, Peter Waring, N Williams, Gen. James Wilkinson; Samuel Wood, Richard Waring, Cornelius Waldron, Joseph Wilson, 2, Russel Whiting, Nathaniel Wilson, John Watley 2, John Walker, Samuel Ward, Elemuel Wight, Canvass White 2, George R. Winants, James Williamson, *Mrs.* Jane Williams, *Mrs.* Maria Williams. *Miss* Elizabeth Weegs, 2, *Miss* Loretta Warner, *Miss* Mary Ann Wendell.

S. SOUTHWICK, P. M.

FOR THE PLOUGH BOY.

Mr. Southwick is respectfully requested to insert this Journal in the number of the Plough Boy which contains the Meteorological Journal kept at Albany. A comparison of the state of the atmosphere, winds, &c. at the two places, it is thought will not be uninteresting to your readers. We design hereafter to have an additional column for the Journal kept at this place, showing the state of the weather, and another for the rain gauge, also another, if our instrument can be regulated, for the hygrometer.

Yours, Sir, with esteem,

A SUBSCRIBER TO THE PLOUGH BOY.

Hamilton College, Clinton, Feb. 28, 1821.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL FOR FEBRUARY, 1821,

KEPT AT HAMILTON COLLEGE.

Days.	Therm. M.	Therm. M.	Therm. M.	Barometer. 7 A M.	Barometer. 2 P M.	Barometer. 9 P M.	Winds. Morn.	Winds. Aftern.
1	35	38	30	29,26	29,37	29,33	S. W.	S. W.
2	32	37	32	29,31	29,25	29,30	S.	S.
3	24	30	25	29,51	29,54	29,45	N. W.	N.
4	26	30	29	29,35	29,30	29,33	N.	N. E.
5	18	20	19	29,48	29,53	29,66	S.	S.
6	22	32	27	29,69	29,60	29,42	S.	S
7	28	40	27	29,06	29,02	29,11	S. W.	S. W.
8	22	30	22	29,26	29,24	29,40	N. W.	N. W.
9	23	39	36	29,36	29,27	29,12	S E.	S. E.
10	35	36	28	29,19	29,43	29,48	W.	W. N. W.
11	30	34	31	29,62	29,59	29,36	E. N. E	E. N. E.
12	40	4	42	29 0	28,87	29,06	S. S W	S. S W.
13	34	35	28	29,27	29,36	29,39	S. W.	W.
14	30	31	29	29,11	28,72	28,62	S. E.	E.
15	28	33	24	28,99	29,11	29,06	S W.	W. S. W.
16	24	32	26	28,82	28,79	28,64	N. E. E.	E.
17	24	30	27	28,51	28,57	28,64	W. N. W.	N. W.
18	23	28	25	28,84	29,04	29,16	W.	W.
19	25	47	42	29,19	29,05	28,97	S.	S.
20	15	44	30	28,75	28,89	29,26	S	W.
21	33	40	30	29,38	29,31	29,32	W N W	W.
22	28	34	29	29,35	29,32	29,30	N N. W	N W.
23	22	38	24	28,96	28,75	29,12	S W.	S W. W.
24	15	25	19	29,36	29,48	29,57	W N. W.	W. N. W.
25	16	34	29	29,64	29,58	29,55	W.	W.
26	27	42	36	29,48	29,27	29,56	S.	S.
27	20	23	14	29,44	29,09	29,63	W. N. W	W. N. W.
28	17	26	34	29,51	29,24	29,27	E. N. E.	N. E.

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